



THE ARTS & SCIENCE UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY
MID-SUMMER REPORT | 2017-18

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OPENING THOUGHTS

MID-SUMMER REPORT

Opening Thoughts

It's hard to believe we're already halfway through the summer! We hope amidst working, studying, traveling, or whatever has kept you busy, you've had the opportunity to relax, get some sun, and enjoy the company of family and friends.

Over the past few months we've been working to ensure ASUS continues to benefit every student in arts and science. This has meant strengthening our relationships with the Faculty of Arts and Science, increasing collaboration with our Sibling Societies, and supporting our Commissioners, Officers, and volunteers in planning their goals for the upcoming year.

In addition, we've begun working on some of the initiatives we campaigned on in our election. Projects like the ASUS Store and the Applied Learning Credit are now in their early stages and we're confident they will be accomplished within our term.

We hope our Mid-Summer Report provides some insight on what the Executive has been working on and what has been happening at the Society over the past two months. If you have any questions, concerns, or would simply like to learn more about ASUS, we'd love to hear from you! You can email the ASUS President Jasmine Lagundzija at president@asus.queensu.ca and the ASUS Vice-President Stefan Negus at vp@asus.queensu.ca.

EXECUTIVE UPDATES

JASMINE LAGUNDZIJA | STEFAN NEGUS

Applied Learning Credit

The Applied Learning Credit was the cornerstone of our campaign. If you heard us deliver a class talk or stopped by our campaign booth, you've likely heard of it. But what exactly *is* it?

The Applied Learning Credit is our commitment to increasing experiential learning opportunities for students in arts and science. Experiential learning, which is defined as learning by doing includes any opportunity in which students immerse themselves in a professional learning environment. We want you to have the opportunity to apply what you've learned in the classroom to the professional world while receiving academic credit. This could materialize as a politics major receiving credit for working with a local Member of Parliament, or a computing student working with a business at Queen's Innovation Park.

Although experiential learning opportunities are continuing to grow at Queen's, especially with the creation of the Experiential Learning Working Group and the launch of the EL Hub, there is still more that can be done, specifically for students in arts and science. Did you know 60.8% of all work integrated learning programs are concentrated in education, engineering, business, marketing, human resources, and accounting?¹ From speaking to students, we know there is interest in experiential learning, opportunities in arts and science are just missing.

Since May, Jasmine has spent the summer diligently researching experiential learning and investigating comparable opportunities offered at other Canadian universities. The Applied Learning Credit Proposal is in the works and consultation with senior administrators in Faculty of Arts and Science, members of the Dean's Council, and Career Services is well underway. The overwhelming student support on this initiative has been matched with a positive reception from administrators. Although the Applied Learning Credit still has a long way to go, we are confident with continued student support the Applied Learning Credit will become a reality.

¹ Hobbs, Alex, Antonio Segi, and Christopher Fernlund. *Policy Paper: Promoting Success through the Broader Learning Environment*. (Toronto: Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, 2015).

Life After ArtSci Career Nights

For many of us, determining our next steps following Convocation is daunting. The wonder of a degree in arts and science is its broad application, but that's also its greatest challenge. What careers exist, what careers interest you, and most importantly, how do you plan to get there?

To aid in navigating your future, ASUS is proud to introduce Life After ArtSci, a career series focusing on prominent sectors like technology, healthcare, and law and government. Life After ArtSci Career Nights will include notable alumni from various industries that interest you! These industry specific panels aim to engage students from all years in careers they may not have known and provide personal anecdotes from panelists on their journey after Queen's. Through a partnership with Career Services, Life After ArtSci Career Nights will also provide the resources and support necessary to put your plans into action.

ASUS Store

Over the past two years ASUS has heavily relied on Tilt, a crowdfunding platform that allowed ASUS to centralize all payments within the society. From charity concerts to department student council merchandise and everything in between, Tilt was our one stop shop for all things ASUS. However, with the recent acquisition and subsequent suspension of Tilt, there has not been a better time for the implementation of a centralized ASUS e-commerce store.

Stefan and Callum Linden, the ASUS Marketing Officer have spent the past two months working on the design and functionality of the ASUS Store, with a goal of publicizing the website by September. The Store will seek to create a centralized and comprehensive hub for all transactions within the society. This will alleviate the financial liability of cash and decentralized online payments, while strengthening the ASUS brand. Now all society related purchases will be accessible online with an easy to use website.

Did you know Orientation Week, Lost Paws Critters on Campus, and your Department Student Council Year End Gala are all events run through ASUS? With the ASUS Store you will be able to purchase tickets to these events and many more, all in one place!

Faculty Relations

On behalf of the Arts and Science Undergraduate Society we are excited to welcome Dr. Barbara Crow, the incoming Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science to Queen's! Dean Crow officially began her five-year term on July 1st, 2017 and we are positive she will make a tremendous impact on the Faculty. We're looking forward to collaborating with Dean Crow this year, and hope together we

can continue to benefit the academic experience of students in arts and science. We would also like to extend our sincerest thanks to Interim Dean Gordon Smith for his commitment to students over the past year. Dr. Smith is returning to the serve as the Vice-Dean of Arts and Science and we are looking forward to continuing to work with him this year.

In June the Dean's Council, a group of alumni who are industry and community leaders met at the University Club in Kingston. As members of the Council, Jasmine and Stefan had the opportunity to bring insight from the student perspective on topics including active integrative learning, internships, and experiential learning. Additionally, ASUS hosted a supplementary meeting for select members of the Council to ensure various students were consulted. The supplementary meeting included a presentation on mental health from Student Wellness Services and a discussion on enhancing experiential learning in arts and science.

Finally, over the past two months we have been meeting regularly with various members of the Faculty of Arts and Science to discuss issues pertinent to students and our advocacy goals for the upcoming year. Issues discussed include: experiential learning, the Queen's Undergraduate Internship Program (QUIP), Queen's Quality Assurance Process (QUQAPS) cyclical program review, alumni mentorship, undergraduate research, and student mental health and wellness. We've received a positive reception from the Faculty over the past few months and are eager to continue collaborating in the upcoming year!

Undergraduate Research

Two exciting developments in undergraduate research occurred at ASUS in the 2016-2017 academic year. First, during the winter election ASUS members voted for a new opt-out fee called the Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Fund (ASURF). The fund, which includes a commitment from the Faculty of Arts and Science has a projected value of \$40,000. Provided you opt-in for ASURF, you are eligible to apply for research funding valued up to \$1,000! Secondly, the [Undergraduate Research Hub](#) launched online. The Hub profiles student researchers and publicizes research projects. Further, the Hub shares research opportunities so you can discover research that aligns with your interests.

This year, Jasmine and Bianca Chauhan, the ASUS Academics Commissioner will be focusing on increasing awareness and accessibility of undergraduate research. Hundreds of opportunities exist, but it can be challenging to navigate where to begin. ASUS will be creating Undergraduate Research Guides so you can determine how to incorporate undergraduate research into your degree. Further, we will be working on an ASURF marketing campaign so student researchers are aware of the opportunity and the fund is fully distributed. Finally, we will be connecting with the

Faculty of Arts and Science to increase the number of research opportunities posted on the Hub, so students across all disciplines are aware of ongoing projects they can apply for, and have their work featured alongside some of the University's top researchers! We hope these efforts will broaden the number of research opportunities available for students and expand the quality of undergraduate research in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

Reflection Award

This past year the ASUS Red Room in Kingston Hall underwent a revitalization project and was renamed the Reflection Room, to acknowledge the historical and continuing impacts of colonization in Canada and its implications on the Indigenous staff, students, and community at Queen's. We're thrilled to share the room is officially complete, and an opening reception will occur in the fall.

This year we wanted to extend ASUS's commitment to reconciliation beyond the physical space of the Reflection Room. We're excited to share we are in the process of creating the Reflection Award in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Alma Mater Society. The Reflection Award will be an annual award given to a student who seeks to foster a sense of community at Queen's amongst indigenous and non-indigenous students. Over the summer we will continue to consult with various bodies on campus including the Awards Office, Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre, and the Alma Mater Society, and we will be sure to continue updating students on this exciting new initiative.

Orientation Week

With the fall quickly approaching, planning for Arts and Science Orientation Week 2017 is well underway with the Orientation Committee working hard to plan a variety of events for our incoming first year class. We have been fortunate to spend the past two months with the wonderful Conor Gallant, this year's Head Gael. Conor's ambition and creativity has made for many innovative ideas for the Week. Conor and his team have worked closely with clubs on campus and businesses in the Kingston community to ensure that incoming first years are as well familiarized with their new home as possible. They've also collaborated with with many corporate sponsors, organized training sessions for our Gaels, and mailed out over 2,875 frosh handbooks to the incoming class!

In June ASUS Orientation was honored with the "Best Overall Shinerama Campaign in Canada 2016" award from Cystic Fibrosis Canada. Thanks to everyone who has played a part in this incredible work over the years! If you'd like to continue to support Shinerama consider [registering your club for Sidewalk Sale](#) or donating at one of the many Orientation Week events!

Orientation Week is only possible due to the many months of planning undertaken by the entire Orientation Week team. From Gaels to OCs and Chairs, we are so appreciative of their hard work! We know the Class of 2021 will have a phenomenal welcome to Queen's under their leadership.

ASUS Camps

One of the most exciting aspects of summer for ASUS is Camps! In July and August, we are lucky to have hundreds of little ones flock to Kingston Hall for a week of fun. The incredible ASUS Camps Directors, Caitlin Lavoie (Programs) and Calvin Palmer (Business), have been working diligently throughout the summer to plan an exciting summer of Camp. Alongside their team of counsellors, they've transformed Kingston Hall and have created programming that is sure to captivate the imaginations of our campers. From Mermaids and Pirates to Superheroes and World Wanderers, ASUS Camps lets children explore their curiosity and imagination.

Camps also provides summer job opportunities for ASUS members, and allows them to connect with the Kingston community. This is the first year that ASUS Camps has received SWEP funding, providing subsidization for a significant portion of the Camp's salaries. The Camps Directors have also developed a new website and logo, and have transferred registration and payment completely online making Camp more accessible for parents. Moving forward, ASUS Camps will continue to search out reliable sources of funding and a significant emphasis on marketing and outreach will be placed on the camp next year. You can catch our campers and Counsellors on Agnes Benidickson Field splashing each other on Water Day and enjoying the summer weather, or in Kingston Hall educating one another about astronauts and the world's jungles and oceans!

COMMISSION & OFFICE

REPORTS / UPDATES

Introduction

Although the Executive, Head Gael, and Camps are mandated to work in the summer, they're a small part of the team that keeps ASUS running all year. The seven Commissioners and Officers oversee various portfolios and ensure the 2000+ volunteers at ASUS have a notable experience. The Commissioners and Officers have each written a brief update on what they've been working on over the past two months, we hope you're as excited as they are for the year to come! In September, each Commissioner and Officer will present their Strategic Plan for the year at ASUS Assembly which will outline their vision and goals for their office. If you have questions about their portfolio, goals, or would like to learn how to get involved, don't hesitate to contact them by email, they'd love to hear from you!

ACADEMICS

BIANCA CHAUHAN

Bianca Chauhan | Academics Commissioner

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Since March, Bianca has her completed transition hours and is in the process of completing her strategic plan and budget while supporting the Academics volunteers in determining their goals for the year. The Editor-in-Chiefs of the ASUS journals, QSURJ, Politicus, DATA and AJIS have been working on their strategic plans and are aiming to incorporate innovative events, beyond their publication, for the upcoming year. The Departmental Student Councils are in the process of planning events for students, ranging from academic to social in nature.

In exciting news, the Queen's Canadian Leadership Conference is undergoing some major changes under the guidance of its Co-Chairs. QCLC is now Queen's Next Generation, a one-day conference to provide first-year students with tools and resources necessary to succeed in their time at Queen's!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

STEWART LANGLEY

Stewart Langley | Community Outreach Commissioner

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The Community Outreach Commission has been productive in preparing for the year ahead. Across our diverse committees we have been working to better the experiences of our volunteers and improve outreach, both in the Kingston and Queen's community. In the Kingston community we are looking at focusing on specific demographics that we currently do not serve with active initiatives and fundraising. We plan to foster a greater relationship with the Queen's community and in the Community Outreach Commission through our resources, events, committees, and volunteer placements.

Most of our work thus far has been in planning events and setting up volunteer placements. We started the summer with a collaborative discussion to identify our goals for the year. From there, we evaluated each committee according to its mandate and the role it serves to students.

There will be some big changes coming to Community Outreach over the course of next year, you can bet that we are ready to hit the ground running in September! Specifically, we are looking at new areas of outreach in the community, streamlining our volunteer processes, and creating new and exciting events that will hopefully bring about some enthusiasm on campus!

EQUITY

LAURA ANDERSON

Laura Anderson | Equity Commissioner

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The Equity Commission is hard at work this summer getting excited for the remarkable year ahead! Our Chairs are brainstorming ways in which we can shine a light on specific matters that fall under each committee's intersection of equity. The Committees are drafting preliminary strategic plans and budgets and allowing for a collaborative approach to their planning to ensure for a well-rounded foundation of ideas to be applied in the year ahead. A key priority is to have increased collaboration both between Committees and external groups within other organizations and within student government. This is to provide a more intersectional approach to the ideas being highlighted, and to create a broader sense of community that branches beyond those who volunteer within the Equity Commission.

The Equity Commissioner has been focusing on the process of researching the applicability of ideas to improve the climate of the Queen's community. Such projects include improving the accessibility to a broader range of mental health services, and allowing for a more intersectional outlook on mental health structures at the University. The allowance for all members of the community to have access to resources that they can properly empathize with is crucial for the continuance of an equitable environment. The Equity Commissioner is also working with members of Council and the community on developing an equity training framework for the many volunteers at ASUS across all commissions and offices. As always, the Equity Commission is pleased to continue to research, listen, and work to create equal opportunity for all students in as many ways as we can.

GOVERNANCE

NICK THOMPSON

Nick Thompson | Governance Officer

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Despite it being summer, the Governance Office has been pressing ahead with several key projects. Most important of these tasks has been the coordination and confirmation of ASUS Assembly meetings for the coming academic year. This is the forum in which your elected officials will meet and represent your voice! The final schedule for these meetings should be publicly available soon and well before the first Assembly is held in September.

The Governance Office has also been working on the coordination of the most updated policy and constitution from the previous administration. Students will soon have access to more current policy and constitutional documents containing the most recent changes from the end of the past academic year.

Finally, the Governance Office has been in contact with the Queen's Archives in hopes of forming a partnership to further preserve the ASUS archives.

HUMAN RESOURCES

REBECCA WOOD

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Over the past few months, the Human Resources Office has been dedicated to preparing the Society's recruitment platform and process for the upcoming year. As always, the Office anticipates a high quantity of passionate and spirited applicants for volunteer positions within ASUS and is committed to the task of facilitating a smooth hiring process. The Office is currently in the process of creating a working document of all positions that are to be filled over the first few months of the academic year - very exciting stuff! Keep an eye out for the abundance of volunteer opportunities which will become available in the beginning of September. From raising money for a meaningful charity to working for an undergraduate research journal, ASUS has something for everyone.

The rest of the summer months will be spent preparing our hiring platform, facilitating training schedules for volunteers, creating online forms, and preparing office schedules! The Human Resources Office is excited for its upcoming term and anticipates an outstanding recruitment period in the near future.

MARKETING

CALLUM LINDEN

Callum Linden | Marketing Officer

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The Marketing Office has been busy over the summer working on ongoing projects, and those to come. The Office has begun taking graphics submissions and the Graphics Team is working on streamlining inefficiencies within the Office's structure to maximize our graphics output. The Photography Team has been working to create a series of photography "master-classes" and ways to encourage new and unique photography projects, while the Video Team has been preparing to take on more projects than ever before.

With help from the Graphics Deputy, Paige Smith, the Office has been hard at work creating orientation week merchandise, and with help from the Orientation Week Video and Photography Chairs, the Office has been working to prepare the Orientation Week Team for its promotional run.

The Office welcomes Allison Dickson in its newest position, the Web Design Deputy. Here the Office has been working on several new aspects to ASUS' main website, while taking strides onwards launching ASUS' brand new website, The ASUS Store. Everybody in the Marketing Office is incredibly enthusiastic about all that is currently happening, and looks forward to the year to come.

SERVICES

SAGAL SHARMA

Sagal Sharma | Services Commissioner

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With September quickly approaching, the Services Commission has been busy preparing and planning for the upcoming year! The Services Directors are working to strengthen relationships with our campus and corporate partners so that way they can bring the best events and deals for all Arts and Science students.

Good Times Diner successfully ran their Summer Volunteer Sign-Up Campaign in June! The volunteers, new and old have been busy every Tuesday and Thursday making delicious meals and hanging out at Good Times Diner. If you are in Kingston for the summer and are looking for a great way to get involved or are interested in learning new recipes to make at home, Good Times Diner is the place for you! [Be sure to sign-up to volunteer!](#) We hope to see you there soon.

The Services Commission is also happy to announce the dates for the Imaginus Poster Sale have been secured and we are eager to welcome Imaginus back to campus in September with all of their amazing posters.

As we get excited for September, we hope that you are too. Be sure to visit the Services Team at Sidewalk Sale in September to learn more about the various services we offer and how you can get involved!

CLOSING THOUGHTS

MID-SUMMER REPORT

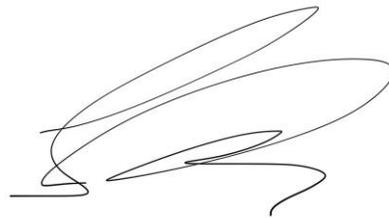
Closing Thoughts

As this report outlines, it's been a busy two months at ASUS! Camps is in full swing, Executive projects are underway, Orientation Week is rewing up, and our Council and volunteers are preparing for the year ahead! With new initiatives, more volunteer opportunities, and an emphasis on academic advocacy, we're positive ASUS's 127th year will be it's best yet! If you're in Kingston, stop by the ASUS Offices at 183 University Ave. we'd be happy to hear from you. We can't wait to see you all back on campus come September! Enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll see you soon!

Best,



Jasmine Lagundzija
President



Stefan Negus
Vice President